



SHORT SPRINGS
CLASS I SCENIC-RECREATION STATE NATURAL AREA

COUNTY:	Coffee	ACREAGE:	420
7.5' QUADRANGLE:	Normandy Lake	OWNERSHIP:	State of Tennessee, TVA, and the City of Tullahoma
PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE:	Eastern Highland Rim	YEAR DESIGNATED:	1994

DESCRIPTION:

Short Springs is a 420-acre natural area located in Coffee County approximately three and a half miles northeast of Tullahoma. The natural area provides an excellent contrast between Highland Rim and Central Basin geology and vegetation. When descending along the Machine Falls trail, a visitor can observe exposed black Chattanooga shale at mid-slope, which is a formation that delineates the Central Basin from the Highland Rim. Thickets of mountain laurel grow on the upper slopes under a dry oak-hickory forest canopy that is characteristic of Highland Rim vegetation. The lower slopes and riparian areas along Bobo Creek support towering sycamore, buckeye, magnolia, beech, and tulip poplar trees with a rich shrub layer and herbaceous cover.

Short Springs is one of the very best spring wildflower locations in the state. In the spring, moist slopes are covered in trout lilies, Virginia bluebells, jack-in-the-pulpit, larkspur, and Dutchman's breeches. Large flowered trillium (*Trillium grandiflora*), southern red trillium (*Trillium sulcatum*), and barren strawberry (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*) are uncommon plants for Middle Tennessee that occur here. The natural area also supports two state-listed endangered plant species, *Nestronia umbellula* and broad-leaved bunchflower (*Melanthium latifolium*).

This biological diversity is related to the rich forest slopes and ravines, low cascades, springs and waterfalls that support it. Scenic features like Machine Falls drops more than 60 feet and is nearly equal in length across. The Upper and Lower Busby Falls on Bobo Creek are two prominent cascading waterfalls that can be seen from overlooks on the Bobo Creek trail. The steep escarpment with its numerous wet weather seeps are particularly impressive during the moist winter and spring months. Water is a significant feature at Short Springs as it once was the water supply for Tullahoma before construction of Normandy Dam.

SITE MANAGEMENT:

City of Tullahoma, 123 North Jackson, PO Box 807, Tullahoma, TN 37388, phone (931) 455-2648; Tennessee Valley Authority, Land Management, Natural Resources Building, Norris, TN 37828, phone (865) 632-1525; Division of Natural Areas, 401 Church Street, 7th Floor L&C Annex, Nashville, TN 37243, phone (615) 532-0431.

PUBLIC ACCESS:

Public access allowed; parking and hiking trails are provided.

DIRECTIONS:

Proceeding north on Jackson St. (US 41A), from the business district, turn right on Hogan St. (at Jiffy Lube, 4 blocks), turn left on Country Club Dr. (at the small grocery store, 5 blocks). Country Club becomes Short Springs Rd; follow for several miles to the Short Springs water tower on the right. Short Springs Natural Area is on the left.